From: Sent:

To:

Duffy, Rick

Subject:

Oct. 26 -- Daily Environment Report

Bloomberg BNA



Daily Environment Report

October 26, 2017 - Number 206

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Leading the News

EPA

EPA's Pruitt Denies He's an Ally of Polluters, Vows to Get Tough

Scott Pruitt, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, vowed that he will get tough on corporate polluters, dismissing critics who cast him as too cozy with industry.

Energy

Fossil Fuels Get Boost as Agencies Scrutinize Their Rules

Natural gas permitting is likely to be streamlined and air pollution and appliance efficiency regulations will get extra scrutiny as federal agencies seek ways to ease burdens on domestic energy production.

Regulatory Policy

Waiting Game Begins as EPA Nominees Sail Through Committee

President Donald Trump's picks to staff the EPA and the nation's nuclear regulator sailed through a Senate committee, but they face a longer road to getting a confirmation vote.

Water Infrastructure

Interior Department Says No to Aiding California Water Tunnels

California can't count on the Trump administration to advance its \$17.1 billion plan to reengineer the state's key water conveyance system.

News

Air Pollution

No Changes to Toxic Air Pollution Rule for Wastewater Treatment

Standards for the amount of hazardous air pollution allowed to come from wastewater treatment

plants will stay the same, the EPA said in a final rule.

Biodiversity

Fire Rages Across Brazil National Park; Arson Suspected

A fire has burned through about a quarter Brazil's Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, and as of Oct. 25 had not been brought under control, the government said.

Chemicals

Home Depot Is Removing Formaldehyde as Part of Push to Go Green

Home Depot Inc. is eliminating substances like formaldehyde and lead in several categories, making it the latest retailer to accede to demands for greener products.

Chemicals

U.K. Chemical Companies Face Brexit Uncertainty, Green Watchdog Warns

U.K. chemical companies fear the government's lack of clarity about their future regulatory framework could significantly damage the country's second-biggest manufacturing industry after it leaves the European Union, according to the British Parliament's green watchdog.

Chemicals

Workplace Chemical Exposure Limits Now in EPA's Hands

Regulators at the Environmental Protection Agency can accomplish what their counterparts at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration largely have not: They can limit worker exposure to a host of hazardous chemicals.

Climate Change

Coal Producer Peabody Can Look to Future Without Paying for Past

Peabody Energy Corp. is off the hook for now for liabilities related to its role in climate change.

Climate Policy

NRG Backs Carbon Tax Amid Bid to Sell Clean-Energy Operations

Just because NRG Energy Inc., the owner of almost 9 gigawatts of coal-fired power, is working to sell its renewables businesses doesn't mean it's giving up on clean energy.

Endangered Species

Ringleader Admits Shipping Ivory, Rhino Horn, Coral to China

A basement in historic Concord, Mass., was the staging ground for a wildlife smuggling ring that shipped \$700,000 of ivory, coral, and rhinoceros antiquities from the U.S. to China, the leader of the ring has admitted to a federal judge.

Energy

European Coal-Power Addicts Dwarf Those Planning Exits

Europe still has a long way to go to curb its addiction to coal power when viewed through the lens of capacity, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Energy

Forget the Grid of the Future, Puerto Ricans Just Want Power Back

A month after Hurricane Maria devastated the island, power lines still lay slack along roads, utility poles are snapped clean in half, and most Puerto Ricans remain in the dark.

Energy

Nuclear Industry Pushes IRS for Decommissioning Fund Rule Change

Nuclear energy industry advocates urged the IRS to allow power plants shutting down to use tax-favored funds to pay for storing spent fuel whether or not the expenditures are tax deductible.

Energy

Rick Perry Discusses Power Supply with African Nations

U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry discussed energy issues, including liquefied natural gas supply for electricity generation, with a range of African nations from Nigeria and Ivory Coast to

South Africa.

Formaldehyde

Lumber Liquidators Reaches \$36M Laminate Flooring Settlement

Lumber Liquidators has reached a \$36 million settlement of class action claims over its sale of Chinese-made laminate flooring (In re Lumber Liquidators Chinese-Manufactured Flooring Products Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation, E.D. Va., 15-md-2627, 16-md-2743, 10/24/17).

Pesticides

Chemical Companies Concerned as EU Glyphosate Deadlock Continues

BASF Corp., Monsanto Co., and other companies marketing products containing glyphosate expressed frustration Oct. 25 at the lack of progress in the European Union over the reauthorization of the herbicide.

Regulatory Policy

House Votes to Bolster Industry Say in Environmental Settlements

The House moved Oct. 25 to abolish what Republicans see as improper collusion between the EPA and environmental groups when they negotiate settlements that force the agency to expedite or strengthen regulations, sending the bill to an uncertain future in the Senate.

Renewable Energy

Ban on New Onshore Wind Farms May Cost U.K. Up to \$1.3 Billion

The U.K.'s subsidy ban for new onshore wind farms could tack 1 billion pounds (\$1.3 billion) onto power bills over five years by eschewing one of the cheapest forms of clean energy.

Renewable Energy

Spain's Supreme Court Upholds 'Sun Tax' on Solar Producers

Spain's solar producers could fall out of sync with the European Union's renewable energy and climate goals after the country's Supreme Court upheld a decision on fees known as the sun tax.

Renewable Energy

Why Oil-Rich Gulf Arab Countries Are Turning to Renewables

Solar power is getting so cheap that even Gulf Arab states awash in crude oil are embracing the renewable resource. Their motive is as much to keep selling fossil fuels as it is to rein in their carbon emissions.

TCE

Ametek Exec Loses Bid to Dismiss Hazmat Death Claims

An executive for Ametek Inc. must answer claims that his inaction in cleaning up a large hazardous waste spill contributed to a woman's cancer death, the Southern District of California ruled Oct. 24 (Cox v. Ametek, Inc., 2017 BL 381749, S.D. Cal., No. 17-cv-01211, 10/24/17).

Correction

Because of en editing error, the affiliation of the press secretary in the final paragraph of the Oct. 24 story, "Energy Bid to Support Coal, Nuke Plants Called Illegal," was incorrect. The press secretary works for the Department of Energy. The online version of the story has been corrected.

Practitioner Insights

Pesticides

Practitioner Insights: Manipulated Science Attacks Vital Herbicide

Our quality of life depends on sound science. From health care to transportation to energy and food, progress and innovation will require valid and objective research.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

From:

Bloomberg BNA <bloomberg@bna.com>

Sent:

Friday, October 27, 2017 8:40 PM

To:

Duffy, Rick

Subject:

Oct. 30 -- Daily Environment Report

Bloomberg BNA



Daily Environment Report

October 30, 2017 - Number 208

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Leading the News

Chemicals

Exxon: EPA Should Leverage Existing Chemical Exposure Data

The EPA should partner with chemical and product makers in securing chemical exposure information to improve decisions, an Exxon Mobil scientist said.

Climate Regulation

Truck Industry Awaits EPA Rewrite After Trailer Rule Paused

The truck and trailer industry won't have to comply with the EPA's greenhouse gas requirements for now, but the industry is still waiting to see whether the agency will exempt it from the overall regulation.

Natural Resources

Trump Appears Set to Scale Back Size of Two National Monuments

President Donald Trump apparently will revise—and possibly downsize—at least two national monuments, the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in Utah.

Pesticides

European Union Glyphosate Vote Set for Nov. 9

The European Union will hold a long-awaited vote Nov. 9 on the reauthorization of glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup and dozens of other herbicides.

News

Air Pollution

California Taps VW Cheating Penalty to Help Build Emissions Lab

The California Air Resources Board plans to break ground today on a vehicle emissions test lab

The Control of the Co

that will cost \$419 million, with a third of the money coming from penalties that Volkswagen AG is paying because of its diesel cheating scandal.

Chemicals

Fire at West Virginia Plastics Warehouse Releases Toxics

The EPA deployed a specialized aircraft equipped with sensors to identify chemical contaminants that may have been released during a plastics warehouse fire in Parkersburg, W.Va., a blaze that was still smoldering after five days.

Climate Policy

Coal Standoff Hinders Merkel's Push for Next German Government

A clash over climate change between two of Angela Merkel's potential government partners escalated to the point that the German chancellor had to step in to tone things down.

Energy

Regulator Wants Electric Grid Planning to Avoid 'Regrets'

The U.S. electric grid is resilient and reliable now, but the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must prepare for future changes to the electricity mix and competitive energy markets, FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee said.

Enforcement

Exxon Mobil Is Said Set to Settle Air Pollution Violations

The U.S. government is close to resolving air pollution allegations against Exxon Mobil Corp. and may announce an agreement in coming days, according to people familiar with the situation.

Mining

Battery Boom Relies on One African Nation Avoiding Chaos of Past

The cars of the future will depend increasingly upon supplies of an obscure metal from a country in the African tropics where there has never been a peaceful transition of power and child labor is still used in parts of the mining industry.

Motor Vehicles

Oil Industry Seeks to Help Gasoline-Fueled Cars in Climate Fight

Big oil is betting it can help the internal combustion engine, the heart of its business for a century, withstand the onslaught from electric cars.

Oil & Gas

Brazil Pushes Deep-Water Exploration with Bid Round, Law Change

Brazil started auctioning areas in its most prized oil region Oct. 27 as lawmakers consider completely reversing nationalist oil policies to give a further boost to exploration.

Oil & Gas

One Way for a Gas Driller to Save Cash? the Water Pipe Business

How does a U.S. shale gas explorer save money on all the water it needs to bring into fields and pump into wells? The answer, according to one driller: Build your own water pipelines.

Pipeline Safety

Enbridge Hid Pipeline Sealant Issues, Michigan Regulators Say

Enbridge Energy Partners concealed information for three years about damage to a pipeline's protective coating, Michigan regulators charge, but an official with the Canadian energy giant said the company did not intentionally mislead regulators.

Renewable Energy

Argentina Strides to Cut Costs in Emerging Clean Power Industry

Argentina took strides on Oct. 27 to lower costs in its incipient renewable energy sector.

Renewable Energy

First Solar Surges Due to Possible Trump Tariffs on Rivals

First Solar Inc. orders surged in the third quarter, a sign that developers are flocking to thin-film

solar panels that won't be affected by import tariffs President Donald Trump may impose.

Renewable Energy

Max Boegl Builds World's Tallest Wind Turbine With Storage Unit

The German construction company Max Boegl Wind AG built what it says is the world's tallest wind turbine by placing a tower on an integrated hydro battery in the depths of the nation's Black Forest.

Trump China Trip to Broker Multibillion-Dollar U.S. Energy Deals

Representatives from about 40 companies are expected to accompany President Donald Trump on the first presidential trade mission to China Nov. 8-10 and sign deals for billions of dollars in U.S. investments.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

From:

Bloomberg BNA <bloomberg@bna.com>

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To: Duffy, Rick

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Nov. 13 -- Daily Environment Report

Bloomberg BNA



Daily Environment Report

November 13, 2017 - Number 217

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Leading the News

EPA

Senate Sends EPA an Air Chief in Largely Party Line Vote

The Senate is sending the EPA an air chief—adding to the agency's team its second confirmed political appointee.

Energy

U.S. Energy Regulator Lays Out Plan to Keep At-Risk Coal Online

FirstEnergy Corp.'s efforts to save its ailing coal plants are gaining traction with the top U.S. energy regulator.

Motor Vehicles

EPA Parks Portions of Greenhouse Gas Rule for Trucks

The EPA is one step closer to meeting an industry request to repeal portions of greenhouse gas limits for trucks.

Pesticides

Monsanto, DowDuPont Left Hanging as EU Deadlocks on Glyphosate

Monsanto, DowDuPont, and other companies that use glyphosate in their pesticide formulations were left frustrated Nov. 9 as the European Union once again failed to make a decision on reauthorizing the chemical.

Pesticides

No Link Between Roundup and Cancer, Study Finds

A long-term survey of tens of thousands of U.S. farmers found no significant link between cancer and exposure to glyphosate, best known as the main ingredient in Monsanto Co.'s Roundup herbicide.

News

Air Pollution

Judges Skeptical of EPA's Need For More Time on Kiln Emissions

The EPA's need for two extra years to review its toxic pollution standards for brick kilns met with skepticism from federal judges.

Air Pollution

Los Angeles Emissions Trading Plan Changes Snuffed Out by Court

Southern California air quality officials will have to revisit changes to a regional pollution credit trading program approved in 2015, a state court said.

Asbestos

Ford Cleared of Asbestos Claims From 1970s Brake Repair

Ford Motor Co. won dismissal of lung cancer claims by the widow of a man allegedly exposed to asbestos while working on car brakes.

Chemicals

Taiwan Weighs Broadening Oversight of Industrial Chemicals

Taiwan will revise its federal law to broaden controls on chemicals if a measure approved by the Cabinet Nov. 9 is enacted.

Climate Change

Deutsche Bank's Tool Maps Climate-Change Investment Risks

Deutsche Bank AG's asset-management unit is using a detailed map to determine where natural disasters spawned by climate change may pose the greatest risks to its investment portfolios.

Coal Mining

One of the World's Biggest Miners Is About to Go Coal Free

Just five years ago it would have been almost unthinkable that one of the world's biggest mining companies would not dig any coal. It's now likely to become a reality.

Energy

China's Appetite for U.S. Energy Falls Short of Binding Deals

China showed its appetite for big ticket investments in U.S. energy production and exports during President Donald Trump's visit, but left the event with almost no binding deals.

Energy

West Virginia Gets China Energy Deal That Dwarfs State's GDP

West Virginia was the biggest recipient of the \$250 billion of investments signed during President Donald Trump's visit to China.

Environmental Claims

Top Canada Court to Hear Appeal on Abandoned Oil Well Decision

The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to hear an appeal of a lower court decision that allows bankrupt oil and gas companies to hand off the cost of cleanup to government authorities in order to maximize money for creditors.

International Climate

EU Reaches Deal to Overhaul World's Largest Carbon Market

European Union negotiators agreed to overhaul the region's cap-and-trade program, approving a plan to bolster carbon prices and adjust the emissions market to more ambitious climate goals in the next decade.

Motor Vehicles

Senate Tax Bill Bucks House, Keeps Electric Vehicle Credit

The Senate's broad rewrite of the nation's tax code rejects a move by House Republicans to eliminate a \$7,500 tax credit for electric-vehicle purchases, two members of the tax-writing

committee said.

Oil & Gas

Legislation to Allow Drilling in Arctic Refuge Unveiled in Senate

Legislation to allow oil exploration in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is scheduled for action on Nov. 15 by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Oil & Gas

Williams Cleared to Resume Work on \$3 Billion Gas Pipeline

Williams Partners LP was cleared by a federal court to resume construction on a \$3 billion pipeline that will help shuttle shale gas across the eastern U.S.

Renewable Energy

As Rooftop-Solar Growth Ebbs, Installers Chase Profitability

There's long been a Catch-22 about residential solar: Despite staggering market demand, it's been hard to make money doing it. Until now.

Renewable Energy

Wind Energy Feels the Force of World Markets

The prevailing wind has dramatically changed for the world's biggest maker of the swooshing blades that dot landscapes from Argentina to Mongolia.

Vehicle Fuels

U.S. Sets Duties on Argentine Biodiesel as Final Decision Looms

The U.S. set final import duties on biodiesel from Indonesia and Argentina of as much as 72.28 percent, after concluding that government subsidies are giving an unfair advantage to producers in those countries.

Water Pollution

D.C. Claims Right to Prevent Sewer Backups from Mislabeled Wipes

Washington, D.C., has the right to try preventing sewer backups caused by disposable wipes mislabeled as flushable, the District said in a court filing defending its labeling rules and disputing claims by manufacturer Kimberly-Clark Corp.

Publication Holiday

Bloomberg BNA will not publish on Friday, Nov. 10 because of the Veterans Day holiday. Regular publication will resume on Nov. 13

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

From:

Bloomberg BNA <bloomberg@bna.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 8:08 PM

To:

Duffy, Rick

Subject:

Nov. 16 -- Daily Environment Report

Bloomberg BNA



Daily Environment Report

November 16, 2017 - Number 220

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Leading the News

Chemical Safety Board

Chemical Plants Face New Reality in Natural Disaster Preparation

As tropical storms in the Gulf Coast increase in frequency and intensity, it's imperative that facilities reassess operation plans and worst-case scenario assumptions, Chemical Safety Board Chairwoman Vanessa Sutherland said Nov. 15.

Chemicals

European Union Wants to Change the Ink in Your Tattoo

Tattooing has been around for thousands of years, but its popularity is bigger than ever. Once considered an act of rebellion against cultural norms, today nearly one in three Americans and nearly one in six Europeans have a tattoo.

Emissions Trading

Eastern States' Carbon-Trading Program Set to Expand

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is poised to expand to two large Eastern states as soon as next year, marking the biggest expansion of the cap-and-trade program since it was created almost a decade ago.

International Climate

Modest Progress Seen in Bonn Toward Global Emissions Trading

Negotiators at U.N. climate talks in Bonn are on the verge of scoring a modest victory toward international trading of emissions credits, which may be crucial if the world is to take the kind of actions needed to halt global temperatures' rapid rise.

Water Pollution

EPA's Timeline to Rewrite Water Rule May Be Tough to Meet

The Trump administration's "aggressive timeline" to rewrite a regulation clarifying the geographic

reach of the Clean Water Act by the end of 2018 will be hard to meet, according to an agency official.

News

Agriculture

Bayer-Monsanto Merger at Odds With Trump Agenda: Farm Groups

The Trump administration should block the proposed Monsanto-Bayer merger because it is contrary to the president's "Buy American, America First" strategy, the top official of a leading ranchers organization said.

Air Pollution

As India Endures Blanket of Smog, China's Battle Offers Lessons

As New Delhi suffers through a surge in the most harmful type of smog—a toxic stew that makes India's capital one of the most polluted in the world—Beijing offers lessons in how another troubled city made progress clearing the air.

Air Pollution

Four Air Pollution Bills Move Through House Panel

A House environment panel voted Nov. 15 to move forward four bills aimed at easing clean air regulations for coal refuse plants, brick kilns, wood heaters, and race cars.

Air Pollution

Polish Government Behind in Addressing Smog, Vows New Action

Polish government officials say improving air quality is a priority and have earmarked \$2.2 billion in funding by 2020 to ease the nation's smog situation, one of the worst in Europe.

Air Pollution

State Deadlines Loom But No Word From EPA on Ozone Decisions

States' upcoming deadline to address their ozone pollution that crosses state lines by 2018 looms, even though the EPA has yet to announce which areas exceed federal standards for the pollutant.

Chemicals

Monsanto Sues California Over Forced Herbicide Warning

Monsanto Co. and groups of farmers sued California officials to stop the state from forcing a cancer warning on the company's herbicide glyphosate.

Climate Change

A Tiny Island Prepares the World for a Climate Refugee Crisis

As rising sea levels threaten to leave millions homeless, a South Pacific island paradise is upstaging wealthier nations in forging a response to the unfolding crisis.

Climate Policy

California's Housing Policy Is Holding Back Its Climate Policy

The high cost of housing in California isn't just hurting the state's economy, fueling homelessness, and exacerbating economic inequality. It's imperiling its reputation as a global leader in emissions reductions, too.

Dumping

Cheese and Bourbon Face Risk of Backlash from U.S. Solar Tariff

If President Donald Trump imposes tariffs on solar panels, Wisconsin cheese and Kentucky whiskey may pay the price.

Eneray

Petrobras Chief Rushing to Deliver as Election Season Nears

The clock is ticking for Petrobras' Pedro Parente.

Energy

Puerto Rico Hit by New Blackout Just as Governor Touts Recovery

A new power outage hit Puerto Rico on Nov. 15, immobilizing parts of the San Juan area just hours after the governor heralded a major accomplishment on the path to recovery.

Energy

Statoil Plans to Step Up Exploration After Driving Down Costs

Statoil ASA plans to step up drilling in Norway for a second consecutive year, according to company officials.

Fossil Fuels

Trump Isn't Helping Us, Says Advocate of 'Clean' Fossil Fuel Use

U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts to promote the use of "clean coal" may actually be undermining the industry he's seeking to save.

International Climate

Merkel Defends Coal Use as Macron Calls for Carbon Price Floor

French President Emmanuel Macron called for a minimum price on carbon pollution while German Chancellor Angela Merkel defended her country's use of coal as they opened the final stage of two weeks of talks on global warming organized by the United Nations.

International Climate

Trudeau Sees 'Challenge' in Balancing Fossil Fuels, Climate

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sees Canada's vast carbon resources as an environmental "challenge" for his country—the world's No. 4 oil exporter—but also said pitting economic prosperity against the environment is a false choice.

Mine Safety

Trump's Mine Safety Pick Confirmed by Senate

David Zatezalo, a longtime coal executive and the Trump administration's pick to lead federal mine safety, won Senate confirmation Nov. 15.

Oil & Gas

Arctic Refuge Drilling Measure Approved by Senate Committee

Alaskan lawmakers are one step closer to opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, a goal of the state's Republicans for decades. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved an measure Nov. 15 that would allow drilling in the 1.5 million acre coastal plain along Alaska's northeast coast. The measure would be added as an amendment to the Republican tax package.

Oil & Gas

Mexico's Power Needs Make It Vulnerable to U.S. Gas Flows

Mexico's growing demand for power could be hurt by any disruption of natural gas from the U.S., on which it is increasingly relying, presenters said at an energy conference in Mexico City on Nov. 14.

Renewable Energy

Chinese Solar Manufacturer Longi Mulls U.S. Factory as Tariffs Loom

Longi Green Energy Technology Co., a Chinese solar manufacturer, is considering opening a U.S. factory, a decision that may hinge upon the looming threat of import tariffs.

Toxic Substances

California's Famed Cancer Warnings Imperiled by Lobbyist Push

Corporate lobbyists, aiming to seize on the Trump administration's deregulation drive, are pushing to override state laws on ingredient-disclosure rules and warning labels, including landmark California legislation on potential cancer risks.

Water Infrastructure

No Fines for Water Utilities Taking Over Failed Systems: EPA

Water utilities that take over failing treatment plants to upgrade or maintain infrastructure critical to providing safe water may see enforcement actions and penalties waived by the federal government, the EPA's top water official said Nov. 15.

Water Pollution

Pilgrim's Pride to Pay \$1.4 Million for Chicken Plant Pollution

Chicken producer Pilgrim's Pride agreed to pay more than \$1 million over water pollution violations at one of its processing plants in central Florida.

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

From:

Environmental Law360 < news-q@law360.com>

Sent:

Thursday, November 16, 2017 3:20 AM

To:

Duffy, Rick

Subject:

[SPAM-Sender] EPA Unveils Some Ozone Info After Enviro Lawsuit Threat



ENVIRONMENTAL

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Thursday, November 16, 2017



TOP NEWS

EPA Unveils Some Ozone Info After Enviro Lawsuit Threat

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday identified more than 2,000 counties in the U.S., as well as tribal lands, that meet ozone standards set in 2015, weeks after environmentalists threatened to sue the agency for blowing a statutory deadline to publish the list. Read more »

Monsanto, Ag Groups Sue Calif. Over Glyphosate Listing

Monsanto Co. and several agricultural industry groups on Wednesday sued California's chemical watchdog over its decision this year to list the herbicide glyphosate — a key ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup weed killer — as a substance that is known to cause cancer. Read more »

Senate Confirms Ex-Coal Exec For Mine Safety Post

The U.S. Senate on Wednesday confirmed a former coal executive who was President Donald Trump's pick to serve as the nation's top mine safety regulator on a strict party-line vote. Read more »

Ex-DOI Scientist Sues For Employee Reassignment Info

A former U.S. Department of the Interior policy leader who has blasted the Trump administration over its approach to climate change sued the agency Tuesday for allegedly stalling on his request for information about how employees were reassigned after the January inauguration. Read more »

Enviros Urge 9th Circ. To Revive Wind Farm Challenge

A conservation group has asked the Ninth Circuit to overturn a lower court decision tossing claims that the Bureau of Indian Affairs violated environmental law in approving a lease between a wind farm developer and a California tribe,



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Husch Blackwell

Kahn Soares

saying the agency failed to do enough to protect golden eagles and other birds. Read more »

LITIGATION

Chesapeake Bay Paper Sues EPA For Details After Grant Cut

A regional newspaper covering environmental issues affecting the Chesapeake Bay sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday in D.C. federal court for information regarding its sudden decision to cut the paper's funding, arguing that the decision raises questions about the Trump administration's support of free speech and scientific reporting. Read more »

Conservationists Demand Docs About Wash. Wolf Killings

A national conservation group sued the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in state court on Tuesday for records related to an investigation into the killing of a wolf by a ranch hand, as well as wildlife officials' controversial decision to kill members of wolf packs, alleging that the department is misleading the public on the timing of the animal deaths. Read more »

Fla. Courts Won't Move Citrus Canker Suits To Tallahassee

Two Florida appeals courts on Wednesday denied the state's attempt to move suits by classes of Florida homeowners who had their residential citrus trees cut down — and have already won nearly \$30 million in judgments against the state — to Tallahassee from courts in Lee and Broward counties. Read more »

EXPERT ANALYSIS

Series

Judging A Book: Gilstrap Reviews 'Alexander Hamilton'

While Alexander Hamilton is the subject of a hit Broadway musical and renewed biographical examinations, professor Kate Brown takes us down a road less traveled in her book "Alexander Hamilton and the Development of American Law" — showing Hamilton as first, last and foremost an American lawyer, says U.S. District Judge Rodney Gilstrap of the Eastern District of Texas. Read more »

LEGAL INDUSTRY

ABA Judicial Ratings Remain In GOP Senators' Crosshairs

Senate Republicans criticized the chair of the American Bar Association's judicial rating committee Wednesday, as the body's evaluation of several of President Donald Trump's nominees as "not qualified" added fuel to partisan struggles over filling vacancies on the federal bench. Read more »

Analysis

Law Firms Shun Old Hierarchies With Modern Office Updates

Law firms in which partners have big corner offices, where heavy wooden doors isolate lawyers and staff and where fluorescent lighting floods the space with a yellow hue are becoming obsolete as firms create updated workplaces that reflect a new philosophy — one that values egalitarianism, community and wellness. Read more »

Midsize Clients Spend More On Outside Counsel

Medium-sized corporations spend more of their legal budget on outside counsel than large or small companies, and the bite alternative legal service providers

Kopelowitz Ostrow Lane Powell Latham & Watkins Lytal Reiter Meyer Glitzenstein Roetzel & Andress Vorys Sater Weiss Serota

COMPANIES

Alpha Natural Resources, Inc.
American Bar Association
Center for Biological Diversity Inc.
Integreon Managed Solutions Inc.
Major League Baseball Inc.
Monsanto Company
National Corn Growers Association
Northern Mariana Islands
Retirement Fund
Northwestern Medicine
Sierra Club
St. Louis Cardinals
Washington Post Co.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
California Environmental Protection
Agency

Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Office Of Special Counsel

U.S. Senate

U.S. Supreme Court

take out of legal spend is still comparatively tiny, according to a new report out Wednesday. Read more »

Texas Judicial Picks Defend Writings, Tweets Before Senate

President Donald Trump's picks for two Fifth Circuit seats pushed back on criticism of their past writings — and in the case of Texas Supreme Court Justice Don Willett, his tweets — before a Senate panel Wednesday. Read more »

Dentons Launches In-House Consulting Team With Ex-GCs

Dentons on Wednesday launched a strategic consulting service with more than 50 former general counsel from around the world to offer mentoring to in-house counsel. Read more »

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Monday, November 27, 2017 4:48 PM

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Duffy, Rick

Subject:

Environment & Energy Report Highlights

Bloomberg Environment

Environment & Energy

Monday, November 27, 2017

Highlights

LEADING THE NEWS

Clean Power Plan Battle Awaits EPA's New Air Chief Wehrum

By Abby Smith

Just days into his new job as the EPA's top air pollution official, Bill Wehrum is about to dive into his office's most contentious fight: rolling back the first-ever carbon dioxide standards for power plants.

Enbridge, Michigan Reach Pipeline Deal to Improve Safety

By Alex Ebert

Enbridge must shut down a pipeline crossing Lake Michigan when severe storms bring high waves and must improve its safety operations as part of a far-reaching deal between the Canadian energy company and Michigan.

Top Weedkiller to Stay on European Market for Five More Years

By Jonathan Stearns (Bloomberg) and Stephen Gardner (Bloomberg Environment)

The European Union agreed to keep glyphosate, one of the world's most widely used herbicides, on the market for another five years, ending a political deadlock that resulted from concerns the chemical poses a cancer risk.

Market-Based Changes Proposed for Energy Appliance Program

By Rebecca Kern

Proposed market-based changes to the Energy Department's 30-year-old energy efficiency standards program for appliances were welcomed by manufacturers, including General Electric Co., but some advocacy organizations raised concerns that prices could rise for consumers.

TODAY'S NEWS

Activists See Silver Lining In Europe's Roundup Approval

By Tiffany Stecker

The European Union's vote to to extend the authorization of the common herbicide glyphosate for five more years is a bitter pill for environmental organizations, who fought a transatlantic battle to curb use of the world's most popular herbicide.

Questions Hover Over Coal Cleanup Nominee's Writings

By Stephen Lee

The Trump administration's pick to lead federal mine cleanup once wrote that a law that requires companies to recreate the original contour of a blasted-out mountaintop mine isn't scientifically or technically justified.

<u>Drivers, Not Refiners, May Bear Brunt of U.S.</u> <u>Biofuel Quotas</u>

By Laura Blewitt

Sen. Ted Cruz may want to spotlight a new victim in the King Corn versus Big Oil tussle: U.S. motorists. The Texas Republican took up arms for fuel makers after President Donald Trump upheld the Renewable Fuel Standard, the 12-year-old rule that forces refiners to either mix biofuels in with their gasoline and diesel or buy credits.

Endangered Butterfly, Mexican Shrub May Be Hurdles to Trump Wall

By Peter Blumberg

Environmentalists suing to block President Donald Trump from constructing a wall along the Mexican border say the project would imperil endangered species including the Quino checkerspot butterfly and the Mexican flannel bush.

TransCanada Asks Nebraska to Reconsider Keystone XL Ruling

By Kevin Orland

TransCanada Corp. asked Nebraska regulators to reconsider their Keystone XL approval, allowing it to file an amended application for the project in light of the panel's last-minute decision to alter the pipeline route in the state.

Electric Cars' Success Leaves Toyota Isolated With Hydrogen Bet

By Kevin Buckland and Nao Sano

Toyota Motor Corp., which has made a big bet on hydrogen-powered cars, is looking more isolated as industry rivals double down on plug-in electric vehicles as the dominant technology in the emerging post-fossil fuel era.

Shell Joins Automakers to Offer Charging Stations Across Europe

By Rakteem Katakey

Royal Dutch Shell Plc is linking up with some of the world's biggest carmakers to expand its electric-vehicle charging business in Europe as it prepares for life beyond oil.

Fiat Chrysler Rejects French Diesel Test-Manipulation Claims

By Tommaso Ebhardt and Angeline Benoit

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV denied a report that the carmaker could be fined for manipulating French diesel-emissions tests, saying the allegations have no basis and that its vehicles comply with the law.

Unlikely Australian Alliance Reaches Clean Energy Bulk Buy

By Murray Griffin

Australia's national postal service, a zoo, a bank, Melbourne's city council, and a university are among 14 unlikely allies that have entered into a landmark arrangement to jointly buy clean energy.

Taiwan to Tackle Energy Strategy, Chemical Regulations in 2018

By Yu-Tzu Chiu

Taiwan in 2018 will begin to phase out nuclear energy and finalize a strategy to transition to a greater reliance on renewable energy.

Brazil Fines Amazon Landowners, Mills \$7.4M for Illegal Cutting

By Michael Kepp

Brazil issued fines totaling 24 million reais (\$7.4 million) to three Amazon landowners for illegally slashing thousands of acres of their property and to 17 sawmills for illegally processing the trees, among other environmental violations, the Environment Ministry said.

Chernobyl Goes Solar as First Panels in Nuclear Zone Near Finish

By Anna Hirtenstein

The first solar project in the Chernobyl zone is expected to be commissioned next month, a step forward in the developers' plan to invest 100 million euros (\$119 million) and build renewables in the radioactive exclusion zone.

PRACTITIONER INSIGHTS

<u>Practitioner Insights: Defining Green Finance for Climate Change</u>

By Daniel Rossetto

Green finance is an important and emerging segment of financial markets that holds the promise of delivering environmental benefits that could help tackle climate change. The segment is substantial, with industry groups estimating that green bonds mobilized as much as \$150 billion to \$200 billion in the last year.

FRIDAY NIGHT WRAPUP

Brazil Sues to Cut Down on Illegal Amazon Deforestation

By Michael Kepp

Brazilian federal prosecutors sued 725 farmers, ranchers, and others suspected of illegally cutting down trees in the Amazon region and are seeking 1.5 billion reais (\$464 million) in damages in what they called an unprecedented crackdown on illegal deforestation.

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First Move: Clean Power Counter-Event • Keeping Sewage Out of Puget Sound • EPA's

Chemical Reviews

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What you need to know to start your

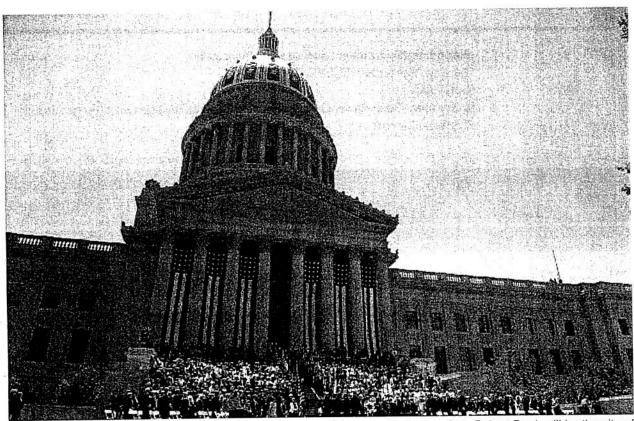
Clean Power Counter-Event • Keeping Sewage Out of Puget Sound • EPA's Chemical Reviews

By Chuck McCutcheon

Today's EPA public hearing on the Clean Power Plan in Charleston, W.Va., will feature hours of debates over the plan's merits and drawbacks.

Our <u>Abby Smith</u> is on the ground in West Virginia for the two-day hearing. The <u>list</u> of expected speakers for today includes Rep. Evan Jenkins (R-W.Va.), West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, and Robert Murray of Murray Energy Corp.

Dozens of environmental advocates are also scheduled to testify at the EPA hearing, but it won't be the only game in town. Advocacy groups have organized an alternative event: the all-day Hearing for Healthy Communities at the University of Charleston, across the Kanawha River from the state Capitol where the EPA hearing will be held. The event is aimed at whipping up support for the Obama-era climate regulation that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt proposed to repeal.



West Virginia's Capitol, shown here during a 2010 memorial service for the late Sen. Robert Byrd, will be the site of today's EPA hearing.

The Natural Resources Defense Council said in a blog post that it still "strongly encourages" Clean Power Plan proponents to attend the official EPA hearing, but the "fun and free" counter-event will include such amenities as free parking, hot coffee, and shuttle buses to the Capitol.

Washington state has a message for boaters: Don't flush where you fish.

Boaters would be banned from dumping raw or treated sewage into the Puget Sound as Washington looks to curb bacterial pollution and open 1,000 acres of now-closed shellfish beds, Paul Shukovsky explains in a story posting later today.

The state's Ecology Department's <u>proposed</u> "no-discharge zone" would require owners of tug boats, fishing vessels, and small cruise ships to retrofit their vessels to hold treated waste rather than dump it overboard. The discharge ban is expected to take effect in March 2018 and could cost boaters millions over the next two decades, according to the industry.

Recently released EPA documents setting out review procedures for new chemicals before they can be made and sold offer chemical manufacturers insight that can help them prepare for evaluations, chemical policy attorneys tell Pat Rizzuto in a story being

published this morning.

But the Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA); Environmental Defense Fund; and Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families want the EPA to provide even more details about how it reviews new chemicals and interprets new provisions of the amended Toxic Substances Control Act.

The materials the EPA released shed light on what has been perceived as a "black box" process by which the agency reviews new chemicals, said Martha Marrapese, a partner in the Washington office of Wiley Rein LLP. The information compiled by the agency can help companies better prepare for safety reviews, she said.

OTHER STORIES WE'RE COVERING

- The Consumer Energy Alliance is hosting a Future of Electricity Forum featuring FERC's Neil Chatterjee and Energy Secretary Rick Perry. Rebecca Kern will be there.
- Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will <u>speak</u> in a talk at the Wilson Center, and available by webcast, about ties between the U.S. and Europe. He's broadly expected to address the recent Bonn climate talks. Dean Scott will monitor.
- The <u>Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program</u>, which focuses on environmental and energy issues of particular interest to the Department of Defense, starts a three-day symposium. <u>Pat Rizzuto</u> and <u>Sylvia Carignan</u> will cover.
- Pennsylvania's Supreme Court will hear arguments in a case that has the potential to upend the way state regulators calculate penalties under the Keystone State's version of the federal Clean Water Act. Leslie A. Pappas will track.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The fact that the EU has reauthorized glyphosate for five years is a setback for the consumer environmental movement in the United States."

—Gary Ruskin, campaign director for the group U.S. Right to Know, <u>lamenting</u> the European Union's vote to extend the authorization of the common herbicide glyphosate.

AROUND THE WEB

 The Virginia Tech professor who <u>helped uncover</u> the widespread lead contamination in Flint, Mich., and Washington, D.C.'s drinking water is now studying bacteria in Texas and Florida well water after the hurricanes.

- Climate change is threatening a U.S. nuclear waste dump on a low-lying Pacific atoll.
- The EPA says <u>it's collected</u> almost 8,000 drums, propane tanks, and other hazardous materials in Puerto Rico and prevented them from reaching landfills.

TODAY'S EVENTS

- All Day Sustainable Infrastructure The Green Growth Knowledge Platform conference, hosted by the World Bank, examines sustainable infrastructure.
- 10 a.m. TVA Nominees Senate environment committee <u>looks at</u> the nominations of four board members for the Tennessee Valley Authority.
- 12 p.m. Climate The Heritage Foundation <u>holds forum</u> with book author on how
 U.S. rivals have deployed environmental scares as a political instrument.
- 2 p.m. Carbon Tax The Brookings Institution and Connecticut Democratic Rep. John Larson investigate whether tax reform can include a carbon tax.

For all of today's Bloomberg Environment headlines, visit <u>Environment & Energy Report</u>

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Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Highlights

LEADING THE NEWS

Replacing Power Rule Divides Industry United on Repeal

By Abby Smith

Industry critics of Obama-era carbon controls for power plants are cheering the EPA's plans to scrap the regulation at a public hearing in coal country, but initial comments on potential replacement options reveal tensions.

EPA Sued Over Air Pollution Trading Program for Texas Utilities

By Nushin Huq

Environmental groups asked a federal appeals court to review EPA's final plan to reduce visibility-impairing air pollution in Texas, which established a trading program for utility emissions.

Energy Regulator to Gain Democratic Commissioner Nov. 29

By Catherine Traywick (Bloomberg) and Rebecca Kern (Bloomberg Environment)

Richard Glick will be sworn in Nov. 29 as Democratic commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, agency spokeswoman Mary O'Driscoll confirmed by email.

Colorado River Legal Fights are Water Under the Bridge

By David Schultz

It's bad news for lawyers, but good news for almost everyone else: The states that get water from the Colorado River said they won't sue each other as often as they used to.

TODAY'S NEWS

Manufacturers Gain Insight Into EPA Reviews of New Chemicals

By Pat Rizzuto

Recently released EPA documents setting out review procedures for new chemicals before they can be made and sold offer chemical manufacturers insight that can help them prepare for evaluations, two chemical policy attorneys told Bloomberg Environment.

Don't Flush Where You Fish, Washington Tells Boaters

By Paul Shukovsky

Boaters would be banned from dumping raw or treated sewage into the Puget Sound as Washington looks to curb bacterial pollution and open 1,000 acres of now-closed shellfish beds.

Federal Court Halts DTE, Enbridge Natural Gas Pipeline in Ohio

By Alex Ebert

A federal court has temporarily halted construction of an eight-mile stretch of the Nexus natural gas pipeline in northeast Ohio, ruling the state likely didn't properly analyze environmental harm or consider alternative routes to avoid the City of Green.

Mojave Water Project Threatens Desert Environment, Lawsuit Says

By Carolyn Whetzel

A Trump administration move approving a Cadiz Inc. project to pump groundwater from a Mojave Desert aquifer will drain the fragile desert environment and harm wildlife, a lawsuit filed in federal court says.

Arizona Copper Mine Needs More Impact Review, Lawsuit Says

By Brenna Goth

Federal regulators need to take a "hard look" at how an open-pit copper mine in Arizona will affect the environment before allowing it to proceed, advocacy groups said in a lawsuit asking a federal judge to block the operation.

<u>Tesoro Savage Crude-by-Rail Terminal Faces</u> <u>Vote</u>

By Paul Shukovsky

The fate of a proposed crude-by-rail terminal hangs in the balance Nov. 28 as Washington's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council meets to vote on whether to recommend the project be approved or denied by the final arbiter: Gov. Jay Inslee (D), a climate hawk.

Trump's Coal Man Is Racing Against the Clock to Bail Out Plants

By Catherine Traywick

President Donald Trump is on the verge of subsidizing coal plants that would otherwise be driven out of business by cheaper, cleaner natural gas.

Beijing Factories Face Moves, Layoffs Amid Pollution Scrutiny

By Michael Standaert

Some 500 companies in Beijing municipality—an area with 22 million residents that is often beset by serious air pollution—have been added to a list of entities that must stop production when the government issues air pollution warnings.

EU Advances 2030 Climate, Energy Plans

By Stephen Gardner

The European Union moved closer to finishing its climate and energy aspirations for 2030 with separate European Parliament committee votes on renewable energy targets and emissions trading.

Electric Cars Need Cheaper Batteries Before Taking Over the Road

By Chisaki Watanabe

Battery prices need to drop by more than half before electric vehicles will be competitive with cars powered by internal-combustion engines, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, whose two-day Future of Energy summit in Shanghai concludes on Nov. 29.

Electric Cars and Energy Storage Seen Arriving Early Next Decade

By Anindya Upadhyay and Iain Wilson

An energy transition is underway. Solar and wind are being added in evergreater numbers. Electric vehicles are becoming more commonplace. Meanwhile, policy makers are grappling with the right mix of policies to pay for it all.

German Clean Power Rises Record 15 Percent in 2017

By Brian Parkin

German clean power in 2017 jumped the most since direct subsidies were introduced at the turn of the millennium, according to the country's Fraunhofer ISE institute, a research organization.

Merkel Says Time Pressing to Avert Diesel Bans in German Cities

By Patrick Donahue and Brian Parkin

Chancellor Angela Merkel said time is running out to tackle high levels of nitrogen oxides in German cities caused by diesel cars as her government tries to avoid having to ban older vehicles from the roads.

Merkel Issues Warning in Weedkiller Dispute Amid Coalition Talks

By Patrick Donahue

German Chancellor Angela Merkel issued a warning to her acting cabinet after her agriculture minister unilaterally voted in favor of extending the use of a disputed weedkiller, a move that her Social Democrat coalition partner called an "affront."

Solar Jumps in Developing Nations with Cheap Panels, Innovation

By Chisaki Watanabe

New solar capacity in developing nations surged 55 percent to 34 gigawatts last year as falling prices and new uses for photovoltaic systems spurred development, according to a study by Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

MONDAY NIGHT WRAPUP

Macron Seeks Faster Glyphosate Ban in France

By Robert Williams and Rudy Ruitenberg

The French government is pushing back against the European Union's decision to reauthorize the use of glyphosate for another five years, calling to ban the weedkiller more quickly in France and urging changes to the bloc's process for evaluating chemicals.

Auctions Upend How Asia Pays for Clean Energy

By Bloomberg News

China's electricity price on a solar deal for Inner Mongolia plunged 44 percent last year. In India, prices to supply wind energy dropped to a record low in October. And Japan last week cut its solar-industry support by as much as 28 percent.

Statoil Buys Norwegian Oil Assets from Total for \$1.45 Billion

By Amanda Jordan

Statoil ASA boosted its position in the Norwegian North Sea with a \$1.45 billion acquisition from Total SA.

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First Move: Macron Picks Up Climate Banner • Tax Plan's 'Devastating' Brownfields

Impact?

Bloomberg Environment

What you need to know to start your

day.

Macron Picks Up Climate Banner • Tax Plan's 'Devastating' Brownfields Impact?

By Chuck McCutcheon

Tuesday marks the second anniversary of the Paris Agreement on climate change. It's also the day that French President Emmanuel Macron seeks to give the deal a push, despite President Donald Trump's decision to yank the U.S. out of the pact.

Macron is hosting the One Climate Summit, a Tuesday event aimed at at exploring how the private and private sectors can somehow find money to steer countries away from fossil fuels toward clean-energy sources.



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech last month.

Photographer: Ludovic Marin/AFP/Getty Images

Trump certainly won't be at the summit, but environmental and some industry groups will be represented. They include Nat Keohane, the Environmental Defense Fund's vice president of global climate; Leo Martinez-Diaz, who heads the World Resources Institute's Finance Center; and Dirk Forrister, who heads the International Emissions Trading Association.

Climate analysts tell <u>Dean Scott</u> they also expect a big turnout from African countries, island nations, and other developing countries.

Macron will be joined by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim; expect the World Bank and other multilateral banks to unveil new financing pledges for low-carbon projects.

The pending Republican tax overhaul is making the brownfields world nervous.

At last week's National Brownfields Training Conference in Pittsburgh, <u>Sylvia Carignan</u> learned, policy analysts said the tax bills could make cleaning up and reusing former commercial and industrial properties less attractive to investors and developers.

Some incentives that could sweeten the deal for a potential brownfield investor, such as tax credits for investing in new markets, historic rehabilitation, and renewable energy, face cuts in either the House or Senate versions of the bills.

If a conference committee of House and Senate members deletes all the incentives, the result "could be devastating for brownfield finance," Charlie Bartsch, former adviser to the assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, said at the conference.

OTHER STORIES WE'RE COVERING

- Republicans on the House science committee <u>have threatened</u> to look into cutting funding to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a World Health Organization organization that assesses the cancer-causing potential of various products and activities. In 2015, IARC found that glyphosate, the main ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup herbicide, is a "probable" carcinogen. But, <u>Tiffany Stecker</u> notes, the science panel isn't the Appropriations Committee—the one that officially controls the purse strings—and none of its members sits on Appropriations.
- So many chemicals; so little time: That's the challenge the EPA will discuss at a
 Monday meeting as it asks for advice on how it should sort through the thousands
 of chemicals in commerce to pick candidates for closer scrutiny. Pat Rizzuto will
 cover.
- Two House energy subcommittees on Tuesday will <u>examine</u> fuel-economy standards and greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and trucks. <u>Abby</u> <u>Smith</u> will cover.
- A federal appeals court in San Francisco <u>hears arguments</u> in a <u>novel case</u> filed by youth plaintiffs seeking to force the government to develop a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One of the judges scheduled to hear the case, Alex Kozinski, has been accused of a range of inappropriate sexual conduct and comments, the Washington Post <u>reported</u>.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It was corporate blackmail. They basically said, 'We're going to leave.' "

—Steve Milloy, a policy adviser for the Heartland Institute, a group critical of climate science, <u>lamenting</u> American Legislative Exchange Council members' rejection of a measure declaring that climate change is not a risk after hearing opposition from Exxon Mobil and Chevron.

THE WEEK'S EVENTS

ON THE HILL:

- Tuesday, 10 a.m. Permitting/Nominations Senate energy committee <u>studies</u>
 the permitting processes at the Interior Department and FERC for energy and
 resource infrastructure projects. The committee <u>also will act</u> on Trump nominees
 for the Energy Information Administration and Interior Department.
- Tuesday, 2 p.m. Minerals House Natural Resources panel <u>looks at</u>
 consequences of growing U.S. dependence on foreign minerals in manufacturing.
- Wednesday, 10 a.m. Nuclear Senate environment panel <u>examines</u> the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's operations.
- Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Energy House energy panel holds hearing on impacts and future of North American energy trade.
- Wednesday, 2 p.m. Solar House Science panel on energy <u>holds hearing</u> on advancing solar energy technology.
- Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Parks House Natural Resources panel discusses bill to create new Utah national park.

ELSEWHERE:

- Monday, 8 a.m. Energy Axios <u>sponsors discussion</u> on energy with FERC Commissioner Neil Chatterjee and New York Democratic Rep. Paul Tonko. <u>Rebecca Kern</u> is covering.
- Monday, 9:30 a.m. Atlantic Coast Pipeline Virginia Water Control Board meets to discuss Atlantic Coast Pipeline, one of two natural gas pipelines that have generated opposition in the state. Commissioners last week approved permits for the smaller Mountain Valley Pipeline.
- Tuesday, 2 p.m. Keystone XL Nebraska Public Service Commission will hear live-streamed arguments on motions following last month's approval of alternate route for oil pipeline.

AROUND THE WEB

References to climate change and the EPA's use of renewable energy <u>have been</u>
 removed from several agency webpages, according to an analysis by the
 Environmental Data and Governance Initiative.

- The official death toll in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria is 62, but The New York
 Times analysis suggests that figure misses nearly 1,000 additional fatalities.
- College and universities situated near coastlines are improving facilities and disaster plans to address sea-level rise, but say much more needs to be done.
- A Norwegian town—the world's most northerly community—is <u>at risk of</u>
 <u>disappearing</u> because of melting permafrost and higher temperatures that have
 triggered avalanches.

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TOP NEWS

Purple Line Dodges New Enviro Study At DC Circ.

The D.C. Circuit held Tuesday that an additional environmental review isn't required for Maryland's \$5.6 billion light rail project, concluding that the government sufficiently examined the potential effects that declining ridership and other issues on Washington's troubled Metrorail system could have on the proposed Purple Line extension. Read more »

Neb. Regulators Won't Budge On Keystone XL Route Ruling

Nebraska utility regulators on Tuesday shot down bids to reconsider approval of the portion of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline that runs through the state — an approval that rejected developer TransCanada Corp.'s preferred route in favor of an alternative route. Read more »

VW Wins Bid To Toss Ala. Emissions Claims

Alabama can't bring its own state environmental law claims against Volkswagen AG over the company's diesel emissions scandal, according to a ruling Monday by a state court judge who cited heavily from a similar federal court ruling against Wyoming. Read more »

GOP Tax Cut Bill Nears Finish Line After Senate Passage

The Republicans' expansive \$1.5 trillion tax cut bill cleared its penultimate hurdle in Congress early Wednesday and appeared to be mere hours away from being sent to the president's desk after the Senate approved the legislation by a simple majority vote. Read more »

POLICY & REGULATION

EPA Says Glyphosate Weed Killer Not Likely To Cause Cancer



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Glaser Weil

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday said glyphosate, the primary ingredient in the weed killer Roundup and one of the most widely used herbicides in agriculture, likely does not cause cancer, a position at odds with California regulators who list the ingredient as a carcinogen. Read more »

LITIGATION

NJ Water Quality Standard For Chemical Declared Invalid

A New Jersey state appeals court on Tuesday invalidated a state groundwater quality standard for a toxic chemical used to make consumer products, finding that what were adopted as interim measures have become in effect permanent regulations in violation of state rulemaking procedures. Read more »

Enviros Sue BLM To Stop Methane Venting Rule Delay

A coalition of environmental groups filed suit on Tuesday in California federal court alleging that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's decision to suspend several provisions of a rule limiting oil and gas companies from venting and flaring methane on public lands wasn't supported by the evidence. Read more »

NY Times Sues DOI Over Utah Monument Doc Request

The New York Times Co. hit the U.S. Department of the Interior with a Freedom of Information Act suit Monday in New York federal court, alleging that the agency has failed to fork over documents related to a national monument in Utah that the federal government plans to shrink dramatically. Read more »

Contractor Looks To Escape Suit Over Gold King Mine

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contractor Environmental Restoration LLC urged a federal judge on Monday to let it out of Utah's suit over the company's role in the 2015 Gold King Mine spill, saying that the state's claims under a federal Superfund law should get tossed. Read more »

EXPERT ANALYSIS

Catching Our Balance: Opportunities For ESA Reform

When Congress enacted the Endangered Species Act, it emphasized the need to strike the proper balance between protecting species and allowing productive human activities. Now, the Trump administration has the opportunity — and seemingly, the appetite — to do more to refine the ESA program, says Kerry McGrath of Hunton & Williams LLP. Read more »

5th Circ. Broadens Oil Pollution Act Liability

In U.S. v. American Commercial Lines, the Fifth Circuit offered only narrow limitations to liability under the Oil Pollution Act. Based on this recent ruling, full liability may be triggered by any act or omission that occurs as a result of a contractual relationship, say Christopher Hannan and Kat Statman of Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz PC. Read more »

Roundup

My Strangest Day In Court

Every seasoned litigator has his or her fair share of courtroom stories. Check out the strange experiences that captured reader interest in this popular 2017 series. Read more »

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